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By J. B. MILLER

START JAN. 1 CLEANING HOLE AT NORTH TEST

**R. O. BODINE HAS CONTRACT TO
CLEAN HOLE AND DRILL
WELL IN.**

A contract has been signed between the Seward County Oil & Gas Company and R. O. Bodine for the cleaning and completion of the test started by the Seward County Oil & Gas Company, and Mr. Bodine informs The Democrat that he will fire up and start the work on January 1st.

"The tools and equipment for doing the work have been purchased and paid for," says Mr. Bodine, "and I believe I can clean the hole in 90 days or less."

The contract calls for cleaning the hole and drilling to production or 3,200 feet and Mr. Bodine feels confident that it will not be necessary to go anywhere near the 3,200 foot mark.

In fact affidavits prepared and sworn to by men who were in the rig the night the oil and gas was alleged to have been struck, and which form part of this article, would lead one to believe that soon after the hole is cleaned and the drill starts the well will be a producer.

There has been a persistent rumor for some time that oil and gas was encountered the night the string of casing dropped into the hole, and now the men who were at the rig that night have made affidavit of what they saw.

C. A. Sealey, who owns the land, and is an extensive land owner and a responsible citizen, makes a very positive statement, as well as Dr. A. M. Morrow, John LaRue, J. D. Mahoney and Sam Fields, all of whom are responsible men, so it looks like the rumor had a good foundation.

This test was started several years ago and has had a more or less stormy career, and it looked as though it would have to be abandoned when Mr. Bodine appeared and offered to clean the hole and drill the well in for a consideration of stocks and bonds.

Mr. Bodine has spent a lifetime in the oil fields of the United States. He was born and raised in Bradford, Pa., having been born in 1872, and at the age of 8 years pumped two wells and went to school. When 16 years of age he went to Little Washington, Pa., and worked as a tool-dresser in the first well drilled on East Maiden street by R. H. Robinson & Sons, and the second well drilled in the field, a big producer. He then worked in the Coffey's Crossing and Taylor's town fields for John McCune, an early day oil operator of Bradford, Pa. When 21 years of age he went to work as a driller and worked on the first well brought in in the Turkey Creek field and later he brought in a 3,500 barrel well for Black and Graber in the Baldwin field. His next job was at Sisterville, W. Va., as driller on the old Polecat No. 1, the first well in that field, remaining there until 1893, when he came to Kansas to drill for Griffith & Miller in the new Independence field, working on the first gusher brought in in this field and in the state. He then spent some time working for J. J. Nickerson in the Perry field, and then went to fishing, his first job being on the Bartlesville, Oklahoma, No. 1. Returning to Peru he started out as a contracting driller and remained seven years, going to Cleveland, Oklahoma, when the boom hit there. He drilled in the second well at Yale, Oklahoma, and did contract work at Drumright, running three strings of tools and drilling 42 wells, making the best drilling time made in that field. Altogether he has had 33 years' experience in drilling and fishing and knows the game as well as experience can teach it. He says this job looks easy to him as he has never yet failed to clean a hole when he started, and that he is too old to fall down now.

Mr. Bodine has between \$2,000 and \$3,000 worth of stock to sell to finance the cleaning and drilling job and he is asking the people to take this stock to get this test finished. There will be no solicitation for stock subscriptions. Mr. W. O. Woods will receive applications as trustee at his office, and all desiring to see the job completed at an early date can assist by calling and taking up this stock. If he is successful, as we have every reason to believe he will be, there is little doubt but what the Liberal Oil field will be a reality before

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TREMENDOUS CROWDS THROUGH STORES

**Holiday Sales Indicate the Country
Is Prosperous.**

While many have been disposed to think that this Christmas would be a very slim affair they are doomed to disappointment. Never before has there been such crowds in the city and such a volume of trade. We have consulted a number of the merchants and they are absolutely astonished at the big Christmas trade.

Everybody for miles around has been in town sometime during the week prior to Christmas and everyone of them took out a lot of presents. The spirit of good cheer and good times has been in the air and the whole town has caught a new inspiration.

On every hand you hear, "Isn't it wonderful?" This has been a real Christmas this year. No one has been neglected. Everybody is happy. The smile that won't come off is seen everywhere you turn. What a wonderful holiday season this is going to be!

PROMINENT BUSINESS MAN WEDS

**C. M. WATERS, MANAGER OF THE
SUNFLOWER CREAMERY, SUR-
PRISES HIS FRIENDS.**

Just about ever since Liberal has been a town C. M. Waters has been a booster of the most pronounced type, and consequently has made friends as the town grew and more people came, until it is likely that he is known and liked by as many as any man in Liberal.

For years "Cash" as he is familiarly called, has failed to yield to feminine charms and was considered so "set" in his ways that there was little likelihood of his giving up his state of single blessedness.

However Cash knew more about his plans than even his close friends, so when he returned to Liberal last week and announced that he had been married, many thought him joking.

However when he began to introduce Mrs. Waters to some of his friends it dawned on them that he was really in earnest about it.

The bride is a splendid lady of charming manner, a favorite in the circle in which she moved and in every way qualified to grace the home to be created.

Cash Waters is one of those "good fellows" whom everyone admires, and is numbered among the more progressive business men of the town. He is a builder and his efforts have had much to do with the advancement of the interests of Liberal and the Southwest.

This splendid couple will make their home in Liberal to the satisfaction of all who know them.

The Democrat joins in wishing them a long and happy life together.

The Rotary Club

Clifford Leete had charge of the program at Tuesday's luncheon. It was a young man's day. Earl Rodgers gave a fine address on "Ideals," to which every one listened with close attention and gave evidence of their appreciation. Every step in human progress has been made in following and working toward an ideal. Not every goal is reached, not every ideal is attainable; the ideals of some are Utopian and the barriers to their realization are insurmountable.

Eli Waker cited examples of right and wrong ideals and their effect on individuals.

Jim Darst gave an illuminating account of recent developments in power-producing machinery, which are nothing less than revolutionary, wholly changing the methods of applying the energy of steam, gas and oil and hinting at further improvements. One machine, developing 9,800 horse power, costing more than \$800,000, made by the Allis-Chalmers Company and sold to the Gary Steel Co., is run wholly by the waste gas from smoke stacks connected to their coal-burning furnaces. After installation the fuel that energizes this 9,800 horse power machine does not cost one cent. It is said that no one is larger than his imagination; how large is the man who imagined such an engine?

The crippled children's committee was authorized to have an operation performed on a little fellow, the hospital making special rates, and the surgeon donating his services.

TYRONE TOOK BASKET BALL GAME, 33 TO 8

**SPLENDID GOAL SHOOTING OF
TYRONE PLAYERS FEAT-
URES OF GAME.**

We felt like they would do it, but we didn't think they would do it quite so strong.

This comes near telling the story of the first basket ball game of the season played last Wednesday night between Liberal and Tyrone High Schools.

Tyrone did not play football this season, and started practicing early, and add to this a clever working bunch of boys, and this finishes the story.

The game started with a rush and it seemed that all the Tyrone fellows had to do was to get possession of the ball and give it a toss and it would eventually find its way through the basket. For the short practice they had had the Liberal boys showed up splendidly and fought gamely until the final whistle, but were unable to cope with the smooth-working machine from Oklahoma.

The Liberal team was made up of Miller, center; Ravenscroft and Van Hynning, forwards; Reust and Wilmot, guards. Substitutes were: Bradford for Ravenscroft, Latham for Wilmot, Dickerson for Van Hynning.

The score was 33 to 8 in favor of Tyrone, but it was nevertheless a good game, due to the fact Liberal fought gamely and showed up so well against the strong Tyrone team.

The next game will be played January 12, when Hooker comes for a double-header. By this time the Liberal team will have gained some practice, and expect to give a good account of themselves.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH

For the first time in the history of the Catholic church in Liberal a grand solemn high mass was held in St. Anthony's church on Christmas day. The church was filled to capacity, many non-Catholics attending to hear the musical program arranged, under the direction of Miss Mary Flood. St. Anthony's choir which is noted for the number and quality of its trained voices, more than fulfilled expectations. The same program will be repeated at the high mass next Sunday at 10:30 a. m.

FRIENDS CHURCH

Sunday School at 9:45.
Service for worship, 11:00.
An old fashioned watch night service Sunday evening at 8:00. The service will open with the young people's meeting, followed with a message by the pastor. Time will be given for an old time spiritual "love feast."
The meeting will close with a consecration service led by our district superintendent, A. M. Gibson.
Special music will be one of the features.
Come and start the New Year right.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Masters who have been visiting for the past two weeks at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Wilfred Bush, left Wednesday for their home in Burlingame, Kansas. They will visit a short time in Hutchinson with friends before returning home.

Mrs. W. H. Vickers returned Wednesday from Wichita where she and Mr. Vickers spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Vickers. Mr. Vickers remained for a longer visit.

Mrs. E. H. Huls and children left Wednesday for Santa Rosa New Mexico where they will visit at the home of Mrs. Huls' brother, Mr. R. E. Shover.

T. G. Pate and family returned Tuesday from Guyton, where they spent Christmas and attended the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. Pate's father and mother.

Miss Blain Bresindine and Miss Ruth Wright went to Tyrone Wednesday for a few days' visit at the Philpott home.

Mr. and Mrs. Berwick of Little River, Kan. spent Christmas at the home of their son Joe Berwick.

Mrs. Zetta Pitts left Friday evening for Wichita where she is spending the holidays with her daughter.

Miss Nettie Taylor left Friday evening for her home in Almena, Kan.

SCOUTS SEND MR. BAUGHMAN XMAS GREETING

**HAD INTERESTING MEETING AT
M. E. CHURCH AND RECEIV-
ED TREAT.**

The Boy Scouts were given a treat last Friday evening by John W. Baughman. A pleasing program was rendered after which the treat was distributed to the members present.

The Scouts then sent Mr. Baughman a splendid Christmas greeting, signed by all the Scouts present, as follows:

Liberal, Kansas,
December 22, 1922.
Mr. John W. Baughman,
46 Chestnut Ave., Long Beach,
California.

Dear Mr. Baughman:

Once again the Boy Scouts of Liberal have been made happy by your thoughtfulness and generosity. We well remember our first trip down on the Coldwater in 1921. Again the long journey to Taos the following year, and then the wonderful trip to Cheyenne last year. All these glorious days of travel and pleasure made possible by your goodness of heart. Tonight, as we enjoy this splendid Christmas treat, we feel deeply grateful. How we wish that you and Robert were here! Since you are not we take this method to thank you and to express our best wishes for your welfare and happiness. May God bless you with health, wealth and happiness for many, many days and years. Loyalty and lovingly yours,
THE BOY SCOUTS OF LIBERAL,
KANSAS.

The foregoing message was signed by the following Boy Scouts:

George Gray, Wilford Light, John Irvin, Charles Light, Charles Gyger, Clifford Walker, Levi Walford, Clair Hazel, Harold Irwin, Vernon McGrew, Harold Hazel, George Richardson, Bert Lane, Wayne Frey, J. R. Jordan, Joe Spradling, Kenneth Nelson, Kenneth Hays, Tharal Richardson, James Richardson, Paul Gray, Raymond Bales, J. J. Cure, Jr., Charles Hatfield, Joe Rawlings, Gilbert Martinez, Charles McCombs, Harry Ekle, Billy Nichols, R. B. Smith, Orin Kidd, James Munsey, Chas. Buchanan, Richard Zimmerman, Warren Zimmerman, H. C. Franklin, Dr. Smith, Ernest Higgins, Wayne Hemphill, Lawrence Anderson, Paul Harding, Chester Carson, J. D. Sapp Jr., P. H. Mingle, Herman Moore, Wallace Dotson, Paul Pellette, Herbert Hobbles, Kenneth Sawyer, Carl Jones, Joe Taylor, Robert Tice, Carl Calvert, Kermit Hill, Rue Burns, Pool Donley, Paul Sturdivant, Earl Ames, Leon Ravenscroft, Elbridge Warford, Harlin Stephens, J. C. Brown, Earl Pate, Ralph Pellette, Arthur Clark, Albert Wallace, Jeff Quigley, Edward McGee, Wendell Miller, Caryl Light, Eli Walker.

CLOSE ELEVATORS BECAUSE OF THE WHEAT SHORTAGE

A number of towns on the Rock Island that have been receiving plenty of cars for hauling grain up to the past few days, have been compelled to close their elevators because of a sudden shortage. The wheat price in Pratt is holding up well, wheat being quoted at \$1.05 today. Kafir is quoted at 70 cents, a high water mark, and corn 60 to 75 cents.—Hutchinson Gazette.

Miss Meyers of Greensburg is visiting this week at the homes of her sisters, Mrs. W. H. Vickers and Mrs. A. D. Roberts.

Miss Ester Herbert returned the first of the week from Hufstead, where she spent Christmas with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Alexander and children went to Tyrone Tuesday for several days visit with friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Griffith and children left Sunday morning for Coldwater where they are visiting at the home of Mr. Griffith's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Daniel's left Tuesday evening for Quincy, Ill., to attend the funeral of Mr. Daniel's sister.

Mr. and Mrs. James Bray spent Christmas at the home of friends near Perryton.

W. H. Weaver of Grand Valley, Oklahoma, was a Liberal visitor Wednesday.

DeLaval Separators. Thos. W. Gaw.

MARMON AND CHEVROLET IN REAR END COLLISION

Jack Gray, while driving his new Marmon roadster north on Kansas avenue Saturday night, bumped into the rear end of A. T. Willey's Chevrolet, parked at the curbing.

The Marmon was going fast enough—just how fast is not known—but it put the Chevrolet out of business for a time. A hind wheel was smashed and the back fender and part of the running board torn away. The Marmon suffered a badly bent fender.

A new wheel was put on the Chevrolet Tuesday morning and regardless of the severe jolt to its constitution, was run to the garage under its own power.

ARE LAYING STEEL ON THE KANS. & OKLA.

**TRACK LAYERS WORKING ON
LINE SOUTHEAST—MAKING
GOOD HEADWAY.**

The track laying gang is working on the K. & O. southeast of Liberal. To date they have laid one and one-third miles of steel and the work continues. Another shipment of steel is on the way and if this and the remainder of the ties arrive with sufficient regularity the track will be laid to the state line within the next few days.

The Railroad Committee of the Chamber of Commerce settled the right-of-way claim of the Tucker estate and the road is now well across this tract. The Biltgen claim will be handled as soon as the track laying crew reach the land.

As soon as the road is constructed to the state line a grain dump will be located and shipments of grain will be hauled to Liberal.

A contract was signed today and handed to Stricklin & Smedley for the grading from the state line on south. Messrs. Stricklin & Smedley were here to see President Byers regarding this contract and were successful in landing it.

Mr. Byers is still as optimistic as ever regarding the road. While there are matters to be ironed out, conditions are very favorable for an early completion of the road, both northwest and southeast, and Mr. Byers has no hesitancy in saying that it will be built in both directions.

At the last report, 193 cars of grain, six cars of live stock and two cars of melons had been shipped over the northwest line, and a couple of cars of coal have been delivered over the road.

This should look good to the farmers southeast of town. If they will figure the saving on their grain and coal hauling they will soon see the advisability of boosting the road. There are still evidences of unfriendliness here and there but these must not be allowed to interfere with a business proposition which means so much as this railroad.

Right now Liberal can do a lot of work which will hasten the day connection will be made with the Katy at Forgan if all will pull together. It is worth the effort and if Liberal looks to her interest in the matter, will be on the job boosting in every possible way.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday school attendance continues to climb uphill. 200 present last Sunday. We expect more next Sunday. Come and have a good time with a real live bunch of folk.

Dr. Rawlins is giving some very fine musical numbers at the evening church services. They are a real treat. Hear him next Sunday.

Large crowds attend all the worship services of this church. One of the very fine features is that growing Young People's meeting. They have a fine service each Sunday evening.

Pastor's sermons for next Sunday, fitting for the close of the year.

"Retrospect." "Prospect." We close a great year of work. More than a hundred additions. Increased enthusiasm in every line of activity.

Miss Catherine Hitch returned Tuesday from Obar, New Mexico, after visiting several days at the home of her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Henry and little daughter Mary, of Kansas City, are visiting this week at the home of relatives.

S. Y. Cupp left Saturday for Breckenridge, Texas, where he is attending to business interests.

175 KIDDIES MADE GLAD BY GOODFELLOWS

**FORTY FAMILIES VISITED WITH
GIFTS AND ALL SEEMED
TO BE PLEASED.**

The Goodfellows' Club was active Christmas morning and brought the Christmas cheer to something like 40 homes in Liberal, and about 175 children were treated to candy, nuts and toys. In all \$275.00 worth were distributed.

The big truck, appropriately decorated, was in charge of H. Hobbles, E. D. Cooper and Herbert Dir, with Ray Kennedy as Santa Claus. Early in the morning they started out to cover the town, and if anyone doubts the gladness with which their approach was noted they should have followed them a while. The little folks just swarmed around the truck and Kennedy was kept busy passing out the gifts.

It was a splendid thing for the fellows to do and the members can feel gratified in the way the folks accepted the gifts of the club. Mr. Cooper says all seemed glad to have the Christmas gifts and showered thanks upon the organization. The membership this year included:

J. N. Maxwell, J. D. Parker, W. O. Woods, L. R. Diehl, R. B. Smith, D. C. G. W. Sawyer, Ben J. Foster, H. R. Lindley, J. W. Campbell, C. W. Ellsaesser, C. E. Woods, W. L. Ekel, B. E. Keating, Paul Schenk, Jr., John Galloway, Dr. Smith & Bro.; A. J. Barrett, R. B. Howell, C. L. Cramer, Earl L. Smith, J. B. Miller, Ray M. Meyer, A. E. Henry, V. B. Spillman, C. Anderson, Dr. Levi, Ralph Bales, Bert Long, Arthur Beattie, D. C. Wood, R. A. Evans, L. D. Weidensaul, D. S. McHugh, Earl Dawson, Mable Grainger, H. F. Dir, Vickers Gr. Co., T. B. Moore, P. H. Tucker, B. H. Day, T. W. Gaw, A. K. Stouffer, J. F. Fuest, W. Zimmerman, A. F. Gorman, Eli Walker, Ira Riney, C. H. Leete, J. I. Darst, T. G. Pate, E. B. Rodgers, Paul W. Light, C. A. Brown, R. B. Ravenscroft, S. A. Miller, J. S. Miller, Bert Dubois, F. G. Bales, J. N. Evans, John L. Bales, J. G. Ault, L. W. Steveson, T. J. Smith, C. H. Leete Jr., E. F. Pellette, W. E. Layman, C. V. Rice, E. J. Stutzman, C. M. Raub, W. J. Bodecker, R. D. Logue, J. R. Pennington, J. S. Dodd, W. B. King, J. D. Berwick, F. O. Rindom, F. M. Beatty, H. Hobbles, P. R. Buckley, G. Y. Gaines, W. V. Griffith, G. L. Light, C. W. Law, J. R. Knotts, C. M. Yocum, H. B. Mahuron, L. L. Holland, C. D. Taylor, H. E. Gaskill, E. D. Cooper, F. W. Fortna, Ed Donnelly, Ray Kennedy, H. E. Penny, E. W. Davis, Geo. New, C. M. Light, L. E. Johnson, Riggle Bros., Carson Wright, L. B. Wilkins, Frank Summers, O. W. Spradling, C. E. Ames, Light, Ice & Pr. Co., Summers & Sons, W. E. Stalard, J. T. Newby, W. S. Wolley, Ned Snyder, V. K. Grinstead, E. A. Evans, O. E. Dobson, Mrs. H. V. Tucker, Dr. Messersmith, Mrs. Biltgen, O. L. Cain.

ALUMNI L. H. S. WILL HOLD BANQUET AT M. E. CHURCH

The graduates of the Liberal High School will hold a banquet at the Methodist church tomorrow evening. There will be an alumni organized at this time, of the former graduates. There was at one time an alumni organization but it has ceased to exist for some time. A large number of tickets have been sold and a great time is being planned by those in charge. The tables will be arranged in the form of an "A" and the room decorated with the high school colors, pennants and trophy cups.

Everyone who is a graduate of the high school owes it to the school to attend this banquet. The following program will be given:

Toastmaster—Harriet Bales '21.
Swinging Doors—Lester Ellsaesser '23.
The Road that Leads to Yesterday—Mrs. E. D. Cooper '03.
The Wayside Inn—Clifford Leete '21.
Bypaths—Mary Farmer '20.
The Cross Roads—Marlin Kelly '22.
At the Turning of the Road—Mable Evans '15.
Whither Bound?—F. O. Rindom.

Miss Mary Howard will leave Sunday morning for Pratt, where she will take up her school work. She is teaching near St. John.

Genevieve Strickland who is teaching near St. John, Kan., is spending the holidays at the home of her parents here.